

IN THE CLAIMS

The following includes the entire set of pending claims.

1. (previously presented) A vehicle occupant restraint system provided in association with a vehicle seat for preventing a vehicle occupant from slipping forward under a seat belt in an impact situation such as a vehicle crash, comprising:

a pair of fixed support members attached to either side of a seat frame at a front part of a seat bottom;

an arm pivotally attached to a front end of each of said fixed support members;

a cross member extending between free ends of said arms; and

a power unit provided in association with at least one of said support members for actuating said arms and cross member upward so as to selectively raise a front part of said seat bottom in an impact situation such as a vehicle crash;

wherein said cross member comprises a pipe member including a feature for controlling a mode of deformation of said pipe member as said pipe member is actuated upward to restrain the vehicle occupant in an impact situation.

2. (previously presented) A vehicle occupant restraint system according to claim 1, wherein a relatively deformable member is placed over said pipe member.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) A vehicle occupant restraint system according to claim 1, wherein said feature comprises a slot or hole formed in said pipe member.

7. (previously presented) A vehicle occupant restraint system according to claim 1, wherein said feature comprises a notch formed in said pipe member.

8. (previously presented) A vehicle occupant restraint system provided in association with a vehicle seat for preventing a vehicle occupant from slipping forward under a seat belt in an impact situation such as a vehicle crash, comprising:

LAW OFFICES OF  
MACPHERSON KWOK CHEN  
& HEID LLP

2402 NICHOLSON DRIVE  
SUITE 210  
IRVINE, CA 92612  
(949) 732-7040  
FAX (949) 732-7040

a pair of fixed support members attached to either side of a seat frame at a front part of a seat bottom;

an arm pivotally attached to a front end of each of said fixed support members;  
a cross member extending between free ends of said arms; and

a power unit provided in association with at least one of said support members for actuating said arms and cross member upward so as to selectively raise a front part of said seat bottom in an impact situation such as a vehicle crash;

wherein said cross member comprises a pipe member having a wall flattened from an otherwise cylindrical profile to define a planar surface for engaging the vehicle occupant.

9. (previously presented) A vehicle occupant restraint system according to claim 8, wherein said pipe member is provided with a depending flange extending in parallel with said pipe member.

10. (previously presented) A vehicle occupant restraint system provided in association with a vehicle seat for preventing a vehicle occupant from slipping forward under a seat belt in an impact situation such as a vehicle crash, comprising:

a pair of fixed support members attached to either side of a seat frame at a front part of a seat bottom;

an arm pivotally attached to a front end of each of said fixed support members;  
a cross member extending between free ends of said arms; and

a power unit provided in association with at least one of said support members for actuating said arms and cross member upward so as to selectively raise a front part of said seat bottom in an impact situation such as a vehicle crash;

wherein said cross member comprises a pipe member adapted to undergo a controlled deformation under a load occurring as said front part of said seat bottom is raised, and further wherein a relatively deformable member is included inside said pipe member.

LAW OFFICES OF  
MACPHERSON KWOK CHEN  
& HEID LLP

2402 MICHELEON DRIVE  
SUITE 210  
IRVINE, CA 92612  
(949) 752-7040  
FAX (949) 752-7049